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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Economic - Production, plan fulfillment,  
power, food industry, agriculture

HOW PUBLISHED Monthly periodical

DATE DIST. 14 Apr 1953

WHERE  
PUBLISHED      MOSCOW

NO. OF PAGES 4

DATE  
PUBLISHED      Oct 1952

LANGUAGE Russian

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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## DEVELOPMENT OF THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

F. Gorsbukov

In 1948, Albanian industry had tripled prewar industrial figures. By 1950, Albania's 46 state enterprises and 13 local enterprises had been nationalized.

The Lenin Hydroelectric Power Station, equipped by Albanian builders with the help of Soviet engineers, solved the problem of supplying power and drinking water to Tirana and Durrës port.

The output of the Stalin Textile Combine, equipped with modern machinery, will satisfy the Albanian demand for textiles.

The Maliq area has become an industrial and agricultural center. The sugar combine built there has an output of 10,000 tons of sugar per year. Two cotton-ginning plants, a woodworking combine, and other industrial enterprises have been put in operation. An oil refinery, a cotton mill, a cement plant, and a woolen mill are among the enterprises under construction.

Living and cultural conditions in Albania have been improved. In 1952, approximately 225 million leks were allotted to housing. This was 2.5 times the 1951 budget allotment. In 1951 alone, 94 new schools, many educational and public health institutions, kindergartens, and day nurseries were built. In 1952, this construction program was extended in cities and industrial centers, especially in Tirana, where such construction work was 2.5 times greater than in 1951.

Until its liberation, Albania was the only European country without railroads. Now its most important cities are connected by railroads.

The gross-production plan for 1951, including the output of the mining industry and the industrial and consumer cooperatives, was fulfilled 105.9 percent. The 1951 volume of industrial production was 47.1 percent greater than

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the 1950 volume and five times greater than prewar production. Petroleum extraction increased 135.3 percent, ore extraction quadrupled, and production in the food industry tripled [period not specified]. Albania has more than doubled its bitumen production since 1938, has increased its coal production 11 times, and its chromium production eight times. In 1951, the national capital investment was 31.6 percent higher than in 1950, while local investment increased 42 percent.

In 1952, the plan called for further increases in industrial output. According to the Ministry of Industry, industrial output was to increase 85 percent, electric power production was to be approximately doubled, sugar production more than tripled, and textile production approximately seven times greater.

The 1952 first-quarter plan was fulfilled 103.7 percent. Output of the most important types of production in the first quarter 1952 was as follows (in percent of the first quarter 1951):

Petroleum	110.9	Electric power	192.2
Bitumen	149.0	Building materials	130.0
Lignite	280.3	Food products	522.5
Chromium ore	122.7	Footwear and clothing	234.1

The production plan for the second quarter 1952 was fulfilled 100.3 percent by state and cooperative enterprises.

Petroleum extraction is the most important branch of the mining industry and is constantly growing. New fields are being prospected and new wells drilled. Oil extraction is expected to increase 42.5 percent and bitumen production 29 percent in 1952 over the 1951 figures. At the end of the Five-Year Plan, extraction of oil will have increased 1.7 times, of chromium ore 2.3 times, of copper ore more than ten times, of coal approximately six times, and production of bitumen about three times.

The Albanian government is particularly interested in the electrification of the country. Production of electric energy in 1951 was more than double 1950 production and almost 6.5 times prewar production. The 1952 production will be three times that of 1951.

Construction was begun on a huge 20,000-kilowatt power station on the Mat River. It will have a rated output of 100 million kilowatt-hours per year. By the end of the plan period, several steam electric power plants will be built. Diesel electric generators will be installed at chromium, copper, and coal mines. The electrification of the country will be greatly aided by the construction of high-tension lines forming a single power system. This network will supply the industrial centers of Albania. In 1955, when the Mat River project is put in operation, electric power production will be 40 times the 1938 production.

Albania's prewar food industry consisted of a few small local enterprises producing mainly macaroni, olive oil, and soap. These were nationalized and modern equipment installed. As early as 1950 the volume of food products rose to 175 percent of the prewar figure. The allotment of funds to the food industry in 1951 was double that of 1950. New objectives under the Five-Year Plan, including a fish cannery at Vlore, vegetable and fruit canning factories, macaroni factories, and a bakery at Tirana, will increase the 1950 food production figure more than 600 percent. During this period sugar production will be increased 18 times, olive oil production about four times, and soap production about four times. In 1951, workers in the food industry succeeded in reducing the cost price of food articles 15 percent, thus saving the government about 20 million leks more than the planned reduction.

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Industrial cooperatives have developed rapidly. In the first six months of 1952, industrial cooperatives fulfilled the plan 115 percent. The total volume of production rose 60 percent over the corresponding period of 1951. The Five-Year Plan provides for quadrupling the 1950 figure for industrial cooperative production. Ninety-nine percent of industry has been nationalized.

Still another indication of the industrial development of Albania is the continuous growth of the labor force. At the beginning of 1952 there were 50 times as many workers as in 1938. Competition in production was adopted by 89 percent of the workers. Thousands earned the title of outstanding worker. Many were awarded medals and orders.

Agricultural cooperatives are increasing in number and strength. The government supplies cooperatives and individual holdings with credits, selected seeds, and agricultural machinery. There is an increasing supply of MTS, tractors, threshers, seeders, and other farm equipment. The MTS are already doing a large part of the agricultural work. A large fund is provided by the Five-Year Plan for the further mechanization of agriculture.

The USSR is aiding the development of Albanian agriculture by supplying Stalinets tractors, selected seeds, chemical fertilizers, and tools. Soviet combines began working Albanian fields in 1941. Advanced Soviet methods are being applied.

As early as 1950 the grain area was 120.8 percent greater than in the prewar period, the rice area was 425 percent greater, while the area assigned to industrial crops had increased more than ten times. The gross grain yield in 1951 was approximately 39 percent higher than in the prewar period.

In 1951, the state budget allotted 51 million leks, local budgets almost 12 million leks, to animal husbandry. These allotments were double those of 1950. As a result, pasturage was extended and improved, reservoirs were built in mountain areas, and fodder supply bases were enlarged. In 1951, the alfalfa area was 6.5 times greater than in 1945.

The Five Year Plan provides for a 16.6 percent increase in the cultivated area. This figure includes areas for industrial crops. Areas for fodder crops will be more than doubled. By the end of the plan period, irrigation will be doubled, and agricultural production will be 71 percent greater than in 1950, or over twice the prewar level. The grain yield will be 1.5 times higher during the same period, the cotton yield 2.5 times higher. Olive and citrus fruit development will receive particular attention.

In transportation, the Five-Year Plan provides for a 400-percent increase in railroads, a 200-percent increase in water traffic, and a 300-percent increase in motor vehicles. In 1951, the planned goods turnover was fulfilled 101.7 percent. This was 16.5 percent greater than in 1950.

The Albanian government is making increasingly heavy budget allowances for persons temporarily unable to work. Public health services have been considerably improved. In prewar Albania there were only eight hospitals. Now there are over 400 institutions which supply free medical treatment to all workers.

The prices on state and other markets are steadily decreasing. The real wages of blue- and white-collar workers and the income of peasants are rising.

Obligatory elementary education has been introduced in Albania. The number of elementary schools has tripled since the prewar period. In 1951, three higher educational institutions were opened: an agricultural institute, a pedagogical institute, and a polytechnical institute. By 1955, there will be five higher educational institutions. Progress is being made in eliminating illiteracy. A widespread network of clubs and cultural institutions has been opened.

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The Five-Year Plan also envisages the betterment of living conditions for workers. In 1955, the population will receive 1.5-2.5 times more food and consumers' goods than in 1950. Expenditures for social and cultural measures will be almost 3.5 times those in the preceding 5 years.

Albania's chief imports are equipment and raw materials from the USSR and the People's Democracies. The chief exports are petroleum, ores, animal products, and industrial crops.

Commercial and economic relations between the Albanian People's Republic and the USSR are built on long-term agreements. The Soviet Fifth Five-Year Plan provides for closer economic collaboration with Albania to promote Albanian welfare, culture, and economy.

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